

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE

### CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
2. **Purpose, Objectives, and Goals:** The Task Force provides, in an advisory capacity, an intergovernmental mechanism for the development of a coordinated Federal program to prevent and control nonindigenous aquatic nuisances as authorized by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Act), 16 U.S.C. 4701-4741. The Task Force is responsible for all aspects of the Act other than those associated with Great Lakes ballast water and national shipping programs. Specific responsibilities of the Task Force are to:
  - a. Develop a program for waters of the United States to prevent the introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species and the brown tree snake, to monitor, control and study such species, and to disseminate related information.
  - b. Establish and follow a protocol to ensure that research carried out under authority of Subtitle C of the Act does not result in the introduction of aquatic nuisance species to waters of the United States.
  - c. Conduct a biological study and a ballast exchange study and ecological surveys.
  - d. Recommend allocation of funds authorized under the Act for competitive research grants to study all aspects of aquatic nuisance species.
  - e. Develop voluntary guidelines to control the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species through recreational activities, including boating and fishing.
  - f. Request the Great Lakes Commission to convene, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 4723(a), a panel of Great Lakes representatives from Federal, State and local agencies, environmental organizations, and commercial interests, with Canadian participation, to provide advice about and coordinate efforts devoted to aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes.
  - g. Establish and use the Western Regional Panel, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 4723(b), and encourage the development and use of other regional panels as directed by 16 U.S.C. 4723(c).
  - h. Provide, as appropriate, technical assistance in the development and implementation of State and interstate aquatic nuisance species management plans, review and approve such plans, and make recommendations for grants for implementing approved plans.
  - i. Advise the Secretary of State regarding aquatic nuisance species infesting waters shared by the United States and other Nations as well as coordination with those Nations

related to the planning and implementation of programs to prevent, monitor, study, provide education about, and control those infestations.

- j. In accordance with Section 7 of the *Brown Treesnake Control and Eradication Act of 2004* (Public Law 108-384), the Brown Treesnake Technical Working Group shall advise the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force of Federal, State and territorial Brown Treesnake related activities and programs, prepare recommendations to reduce and manage the Brown Treesnake in Guam and other U.S. areas, and revise the Brown Treesnake Control Plan for Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force approval.
3. **Duration:** We expect the Task Force to exist into the foreseeable future. Its continuation is, however, subject to biennial rechartering. The Task Force will take no action unless the filing requirements of Sections 9 and 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix) have been met.
4. **Official to Whom the Task Force Reports:** As an advisory committee, the Task Force reports through its cochairs to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce.
5. **Support Services:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide support services for Task Force activities.
6. **Description of Duties:** The Act specifies the duties of the Task Force, which we have summarized in Paragraph 2.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** We estimate the annual operating costs of the Task Force to be \$500,000, which includes staff support.
8. **Meetings:** The Task Force will meet at the call of the cochairs at least twice a year or at the request of at least four Federal members, with the advance approval of the Designated Federal Officer, who will also approve the agenda. Subcommittee chairpersons will schedule subcommittee meetings with the advance approval of the Designated Federal Officer, who will also approve the agenda. Meetings of the Task Force and its subcommittees will be open to the public and will be announced in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

A majority of the Federal membership of the Task Force will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

We will prepare a summary report of each meeting of the Task Force or its subcommittees for distribution to the membership and to others upon request. Reports of Task Force subcommittee meetings will be made to the full Task Force.

Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Task Force and its subcommittees as well as recommendations made and copies of all studies and reports received, issued or approved in conjunction with the activities of the Task Force and its subcommittees will be available for public inspection and copying at the following location:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Environmental Quality  
Department of the Interior  
Arlington Square Building, Room 322  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22203  
Telephone: 703-358-2148

9. **Membership:** Task Force membership, as set forth in the Act, includes:

The following Federal officials are statutorily designated as members of the Task Force by 16 U.S.C. 4721(b)(1) to (6). Each of these members may designate a Federal employee to serve as an alternate.

- (1) Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- (2) Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
- (3) Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- (4) Commandant of the United States Coast Guard
- (5) Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- (6) Secretary of Agriculture

As authorized by 16 U.S.C. 4721(b)(7), the cochaIRS may invite the head of any other Federal agency to be a member of the Task Force. Each such member may designate a Federal employee to serve as an alternate. [Note: The cochaIRS have invited the Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to participate as members of the Task Force.]

Representatives of the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program, and State agencies and other governmental entities that the cochaIRS invite to participate as nonvoting *ex officio* members of the Task Force as required by 16 U.S.C. 4721(c) to be appointed by the invited organization.

- a. Alternates: Each appointing entity may designate an alternate representative to perform the duties of the Task Force member appointed under Paragraphs 9:
  1. until a vacancy is filled; or
  2. in the event of the anticipated absence of the member from any meeting of the Task Force.

Alternates will be subject to the same ethics responsibilities as regular members.

- b. Vacancies: Whenever a vacancy occurs among Task Force members, the entities designated under Paragraphs 9 will promptly appoint an individual to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the applicable term.

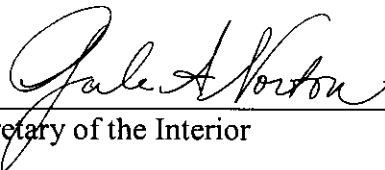
- c. **Terms of Office:** The representatives of Federal agencies designated or invited to participate on the Task Force under Paragraph 9, and their alternates, will serve at the pleasure of the head of each such agency. *Ex officio* members appointed under Paragraph 9 serve staggered 3-year terms of office.
  - d. **Ex Officio Members:** The cochaIRS will invite the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program, and State agencies and other governmental entities to appoint individuals to represent those organizations as nonvoting *ex officio* members of the Task Force.
  - e. **Cochairs:** The individuals representing the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on the Task Force will cochair the Task Force. The Task Force cochair representing the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be appointed by the Director and the cochair representing the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere will be appointed by the Under Secretary.
  - f. **Removal of Members:** Federal agency representatives and their alternates will serve at the pleasure of the head of each agency involved. If an *ex officio* member or his or her alternate misses three consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings of the Task Force, that member's membership will terminate. If a membership is terminated in this manner, the cochaIRS will invite another representative of the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program, and State agencies or other governmental entities to be a member of the Task Force for the remainder of the applicable term.
  - g. **Compensation:** Task Force members and their representatives or others on Task Force subcommittees will receive no compensation as a result of that position. Reimbursement of travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for non-Federal members of the Task Force or its subcommittees may be made subject to the discretion of the Federal members of the Task Force. When allowed, such expenses will be paid in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Federal Government service are allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.
10. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No Task Force or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
11. **Subcommittees:** The Task Force may establish subcommittees of Task Force members or their representatives and other interested or knowledgeable individuals on an *ad hoc* or standing basis as it deems necessary. Such subcommittees will report to the Task Force.

**12. Regional Panels:**

- a. **Great Lakes Panel:** A Great Lakes Panel is established as a subcommittee of the Task Force and will consist of representatives of Federal, State, and local agencies and private environmental and commercial interests. Consistent with the provisions of 16 U.S.C. 4723(a), the cochair of the Task Force will appoint as members of the Great Lakes Panel representatives nominated by the Great Lakes Commission that have been agreed to by the cochair of the Task Force. The Great Lakes Panel will report to the Task Force.
- b. **Western Panel:** In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 4723(b), a Western Regional Panel is established as a subcommittee of the Task Force and will consist of representatives of Federal, State, and local agencies and private environmental and commercial interests appointed by the cochair of the Task Force. The Western Regional Panel will report to the Task Force.
- c. **Other Regional Panels:** In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 4723(c), we may invite organizations to serve as the nucleus for additional regional panels as deemed appropriate by the Task Force. Regional panels established under this paragraph will be subcommittees of and report to the Task Force.

**13. Designated Federal Officer:** The Designated Federal Officer is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-employed Executive Secretary of the Task Force.

**14. Authority:** The Task Force is established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 4721.

  
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Secretary of the Interior

AUG 10 2005  
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Date Signed

AUG 19 2005  
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Date Charter Filed